

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135944
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:DH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135944

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF NKOMO-MUGABE TO DENMARK

1. THANK YOU FOR ALERTING US TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT
PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS NKOMO AND MUGABE MIGHT BE VISITING
DENMARK. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC OR OPERATIONAL MESSAGE
AT THIS TIME WHICH WE WOULD WANT THE DANES TO CONVEY TO
EITHER LEADER.

2. HOWEVER, WE DO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE
DANISH GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION AND THE
CURRENT STATE OF PLAY SO THAT THIS MIGHT BE REFLECTED
IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT
THROUGH THE EC-9 MECHANISM THE DANES ARE KEPT FAIRLY
WELL-INFORMED OF RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS BY THE BRITISH.
NEVERTHELESS, AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON
THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS 4-9 FOR BRIEFING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 135944

OF APPROPRIATE DANISH OFFICIALS. YOU SHOULD
NOTE OF COURSE THAT THE INFORMATION IS FOR THEIR INTERNAL
USE ONLY.

3. OBVIOUSLY, THE TWO GENERAL POINTS WE WOULD LIKE THE
DANES TO IMPRESS ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS ARE THAT

THE US AND UK REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, AND THAT MODERATION AND COMPROMISE ON ALL SIDES WILL BE NECESSARY TO BRING SUCH A SETTLEMENT ABOUT.

4. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE BRITISH, TO HELP BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT. WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT INCREASED RACIAL CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, TO THE DETRIMENT OF BOTH WESTERN AND AFRICAN INTERESTS.

5. THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS NOT ADEQUATE TO THE DIFFICULT TASK OF BRINGING PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE TO ZIMBABWE. THE RECENT HOVE AFFAIR (IN WHICH BISHOP MUZOREWA BACKED DOWN FROM HIS THREAT TO QUIT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OVER THE FIRING OF ONE OF HIS SUPPORTERS AS CO-MINISTER OF JUSTICE FOR HAVING BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN CALLING FOR RAPID CHANGE) IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE LARGER PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT THE SALISBURY GROUP. THERE IS NO INDICATION AS YET THAT THE WHITES ARE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE THE REAL AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF RHODESIA'S BLACKS FOR THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 135944

6. EACH SIDE NOW SEEKS TO DOMINATE THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN A WAY THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER, AND THAT COULD MAKE FAIR ELECTIONS IMPOSSIBLE. THE MAJOR QUESTION REMAINING IS WHETHER THE PARTIES CAN AGREE EITHER TO SOME POWER SHARING DURING THE TRANSITION, OR TO A NEUTRAL TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION. BOTH SIDES WANT TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT INCLUDING ALL THE PARTIES. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS SAID IT WOULD ATTEND A ROUND TABLE MEETING; THE SALISBURY PARTIES HAVE NOT TOTALLY REJECTED SUCH A MEETING, BUT ARE SKEPTICAL OF ITS SUCCESS.

7. SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING THE OWEN-VANCE TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND A UN FORCE, BUT REMAINED UNWILLING TO ACCEPT SOME ASPECTS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM, US AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA STEVEN LOW AND FCO OFFICIAL JOHN GRAHAM WILL BEGIN AN EXTENSIVE ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A ROUND TABLE MEETING.

8. CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON AND WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT

KAUNDA RECONFIRMED THAT THERE IS STRONG FRONT LINE
SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORTS.

9. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT WE WILL
SUCCEED. BUT IF WE EITHER ACCEPT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
PROPOSALS (GIVING THE PF PREDOMINANCE) OR ENDORSE THE
SALISBURY AGREEMENT (WHICH WOULD GIVE THE INTERNAL
PARTIES A DOMINANT POSITION), WE WILL LOSE OUR ABILITY
TO WORK WITH ALL SIDES TOWARD A SETTLEMENT THAT CAN
BRING PEACE. VANCE

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